

Nativity of Our Lord

Service of the Word
Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020

PRELUDE Various musical offerings from members of Luther Memorial

Gathering

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #283 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

GLORIA Glastonbury Gloria | Christopher Walker

REFRAIN 1: 1st time: Cantor/Choir; 2nd time: All



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est, peace to his peo-ple on earth.

CANTOR/CHOIR: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. (Refrain 1)

CANTOR/CHOIR: We worship you, give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. (Refrain 1)

CANTOR/CHOIR: Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God. (Refrain 1)

CANTOR/CHOIR: You take away the sin of the world:

REFRAIN 2: Cantor/Choir; All repeat



Have mer - cy, mer-cy on us.

CANTOR/CHOIR: You are seated at the right of the Father:

REFRAIN 3: Cantor/Choir; All repeat



Re-ceive our prayer.

ALL: (Refrain 1)

CANTOR/CHOIR: For you alone are the Holy One:

REFRAIN 4: All



Glo - ry to God.

CANTOR/CHOIR: You alone are the Lord:

REFRAIN 5: All



Glo - ry to God.

CANTOR/CHOIR: You alone are Most High:

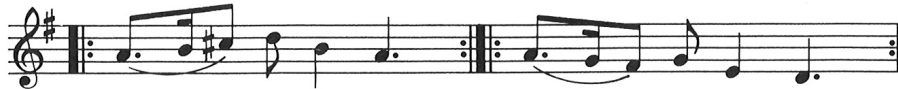
REFRAIN 6: All



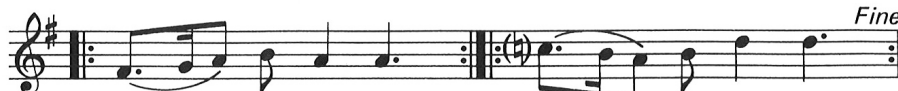
Glo - ry to God.

CANTOR/CHOIR: Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. (Refrain 1)

Cantor/Choir; All repeat



A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men,



a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men. *Fine*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

FIRST READING *Isaiah 9:2-7*

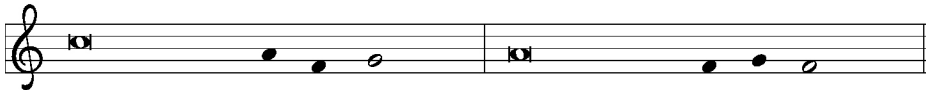
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96

The cantor and congregation alternate in the singing of psalm verses, beginning with the cantor.



Sing to the Lord | a new song;
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

Tell it out among the nations: “The | Lord is king!

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples with equity.”

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord, for you come to | judge the earth.

You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

SECOND READING *Titus 2:11-14*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM On Christmas Night | arr. Paul Manz

GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-20*

Glory to you, O Lord.

READING *Luke 2:1-7*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem (*Stanza 1*)



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



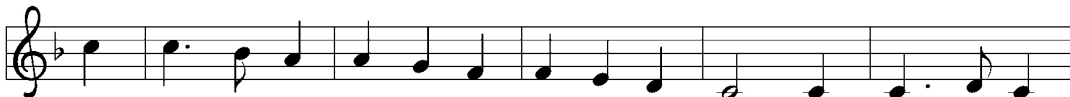
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

READING *Luke 2:8-12*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

HYMN #277 *Away in a Manger (Stanza 1)*



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
 Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

READING *Luke 2:13-14*

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

HYMN #270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (*Stanza 3*)



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

READING *Luke 2:15-20*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY #282 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

ANTHEM Quempas Carol

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory.
forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN #281 Silent Night, Holy Night!



	<i>Stil - le</i>	<i>Nacht,</i>	<i>hei - li - ge</i>	<i>Nacht!</i>	<i>Al - les</i>	<i>schläft,</i>
1	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	All	is calm,
2	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Shep - herds	quake
3	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Son	of God,



	<i>ein - sam</i>	<i>wacht</i>	<i>nur das</i>	<i>trau - te,</i>	<i>hoch - hei - li - ge</i>	<i>Paar.</i>
	all	is bright	round yon	vir - gin	moth - er	and child.
	at the	sight;	glo - ries	stream	from heav - en	a - far,
	love's pure	light	ra - diant	beams	from your	ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Sending

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN #267 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Joy to the World | arr. Layton James

Today from the Life of the Church

Christ is born. He is born to *us*. And, He is born *today*. For Christmas is not merely a day like every other day. It is a day made holy and special by a sacred mystery. It is not merely another day in the weary round of time. Today, eternity enters into time, and time, sanctified, is caught up into eternity. Today, Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who was in the beginning with the Father, in whom all things were made, by whom all things consist, enters into the world which he created in order to reclaim the souls who had forgotten their identity. Therefore, the church exults, as the angels come down to announce not merely an old thing which happened long ago, but a new thing which happens today. For today, God the Father makes all things new, in his divine Son, our redeemer, according to his words: *ecce nova facio omnia*.

Thomas Merton
(1915–1968)

Serving today

Presiding	Pastor Brad Pohlman
Preaching	Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson
Organist	Andrew Schaeffer
Thurifer & Lector	Pastor John Worzala Dumke

We extend our gratitude to the following musicians for their musical leadership of this liturgy:

Chelsie Propst, soprano
Laura Conger, alto
Andrew Stevens, tenor
Bruce Curtis, bass
Matthew Sundell, trumpet
Rolf Wulfsberg, violin

Luther Memorial Church staff

The Rev. Brad Pohlman, Senior Pastor
The Rev. John Worzala Dumke, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Rebecca Ninke, Visitation Pastor
Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson, Seminary Intern
Sarah Brinkman, Office Coordinator
Kim O'Leary, Church Administrator
Andrew Schaeffer, Director of Music
Suelyn Swiggum, Director of Shared Ministry
Robin Wagner, Communication Coordinator
Dan Zerger, Custodian

Lutheran Campus Ministry

The Rev. Emily Tveite

Parroquia Santa Maria

The Rev. Kirsten Worzala Dumke, Mission Pastor

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop
The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Synod Bishop